THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN). (a) to (c) No starvation deaths have been reported by any State Government.

(d) The Government have taken a number of steps to ensure availability of foodgrains for the poor which have been mentioned in the Statement. *[Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 488]*

Offtake of PDS Foodgrains

492. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the offtake of PDS foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is pending before Government to decrease issue prices of PDS foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken following steps to increase the offtake of foodgrins under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):—

(i) The allocation of foodgrains for families Below Poverty Line (BPL) was increased w.e.f. 1.12.2000 by shifting the basis of estimation of number of BPL families to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the earlier population projection of 1995.

(ii) The allocation of foodgrains to BPL families has been further increased from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month at BPL rates from July, 2001.

(iii) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice for families Above Poverty Line (APL) have been reduced from Rs.830 to Rs. 610 per quintal and from Rs. 1130 to Rs. 830 per quintal respectively *w.e.f.* 12.7.2001.

(iv) The Government has launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for the poorest of the poor to enhance food security for all and to create a hunger free India. Under this scheme about one crore families out of the number of BPL families, would be provided foodgrains at the rate of 25 kg. per family

per month. The foodgrains are issued @Rs. *21*- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/-per kg for rice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial Irregularities in Super Bazar

493. SHRINAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an inquiry was conducted by the Central Registrar under section 9 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 into the financial irregularities and mismanagement of the Super Bazar in Delhi by certain top executives both in Board of Directors as welll as Administration; and

(b) if so, the.details of the findings thereof and action taken, if any, against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The inquiry was instituted by Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies under Section 69 and 73 of Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act 1984 into the affairs of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(b) Based on the findings of Inquiry Report, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies had issued show cause notice to die persons involved for recovery of loss. Thereafter, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies by exercising his power under section 73 (2) of MSCS Act has established mat Shri S.S. Dhuri, the then Chairman of Super Bazar was responsible for die loss and ordered the recovery of the amount of Rs. 24,45,780.00 alongwith an interest @ 15% per annum *w.e.f.* January 1999 from him in accordance with the law. Apart from Shri Dhuri, Shri Surender Gandhi, the then Vice-Chairman and Shri R.P. Maheshwary, the then member of the Board of Directors were also held responsible for causing loss alongwith the ex-Chairman Shri S.S. Dhuri. They have been jointly and severally held responsible to make good the loss of Rs. 24,45,780.00 along with the interest @15% p.a. *w.e.f.* January, 1999. The Central Registrar has directed the Super Bazar to initiate recovery proceedings against the alleged persons in accordance with law.